CRAZY RUNS IN THE FAMILY

MARVEL LEGACY

192

MOON KNIGHT™

BEMIS
BURROWS
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MARVEL
AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
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Marc Spector. Steven Grant. Jake Lockley. Each a distinct personality of one man vying for control. Spector, the original personality, has asserted his dominance and fights to retain that control. But years ago, as a mercenary, Spector died in Egypt under a statue of the moon god **Khonshu.** In the shadow of the ancient deity, Marc returned to life. From then on, Marc took on a new aspect in honor of Khonshu, dedicating his second life to fighting crime as…

MOON KNIGHT

CRAZY RUNS IN THE FAMILY

PART 5

An escaped mental patient with power over fire and a perceived connection to the Egyptian sun god Ra is aiming to tear Moon Knight's world apart. Calling himself Sun King, he enlisted Marc's old nemesis, Bushman, to hit Marc where it really hurts by forcing his former lover, Marlene, to draw him into an ambush.

Caught off guard as he was, Marc was even more shocked to learn that his Jake Lockley personality had secretly maintained an affair with Marlene, and that she's been raising their young daughter, Diatrice. As a literal fire fight broke out, Marc managed to save Diatrice, while Marlene was captured.

It's all part of Sun King's plan, though, and as Marc knows he'll need to play along to keep Marlene safe, he's called in his old friend Frenchie to watch Diatrice. But last time Marc saw Frenchie…wasn't he dead?

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MARC SPECTOR'S APARTMENT.

UNDEAD?

WELL, NO. NOT REALLY UNDEAD. JUST *DEAD*. IT'S ALL I CAN VISUALIZE.

LIKE WHEN YOU SEE AN OLD PERSON AND THINK OF THEM NAKED AND THEN CAN'T STOP PICTURING IT.

THAT'S DISTURBING. BUT I'D BE EQUALLY HAUNTED IF I HAD SEEN *YOU* GET MURDERED IN A WAKING NIGHTMARE OF INSANE ASYLUMS AND EGYPTIAN GODS.

YOU SAW IT. YOU FELT IT.

IT WAS REAL ENOUGH.

TO FIND OUT WHAT MARC'S TALKING ABOUT, READ THE MIND-BENDING LEMIRE/SMALLWOOD RUN! -ED

HOW... HOW DID I *GO?*

BLEEDING GASH WOUND IN THE SIDE OF YOUR NECK.

YOU JUST KIND OF SLID DOWN INTO A POOL OF PLASMA AND YOUR EYES ROLLED BACK IN YOUR HEAD.

PSH. WHEN I ACTUALLY BITE THE DUST, IT'LL BE A MORE DISTINGUISHED OCCASION THAN THAT.

SEE, THE SICK THING IS... AND I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT THIS...LOSING YOU WAS SOME KIND OF FANTASY.

YOU CAN CHALK IT UP TO ME ACCEPTING MY DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER, OR ME FACING MY DEMONS...

BUT I THINK I NEEDED TO SEE YOU DIE IN ORDER TO MAKE SENSE OF YOUR WORTH TO ME.

THAT'S NOT FAIR TO YOU. YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.

YOU THINK TOO MUCH, SPECTOR.

YOU CAN PICTURE WHATEVER YOU WANT IN THAT MALFUNCTIONING CRANIUM OF YOURS IF IT HELPS YOU MAKE SENSE OF THE HAND YOU'VE BEEN DEALT.

...

OKAY.

NOW, MARC, ARE YOU ACTUALLY HEARING ME, OR ARE YOU STILL PICTURING SOME GROTESQUE FANTASY--

DIATRICE!

DON'T STAND ON FRENCHIE'S SKIN!

YOU'RE MAKING NO SENSE AGAIN. CAN YOU SAVE MOMMY AFTER ONE MORE GAME OF TALK-PRETEND?

SORRY, KIDDO. IT'S TIME TO FLY.

ONE LAST GAME OF TRI-CART BEFORE YOU GO?

NO.

NO MORE GAMES OF TRI-CART BEFORE I GO.

WELL...MAYBE A QUICK GAME OF TRI-CART FOR THE ROAD BEFORE--

SMASH

SPECTOR!

HOLD THAT POSE, YOU GARGOYLE-RIDING @#$%.

THIS YOUR NEW SPOT?

REAL QUAINT.

YOU SHOULD COME TO THE LOBBY AND HAVE A LITTLE SIT-DOWN WITH US.

GRANDMA FROM THE FRONT DESK WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE IT.

AND DON'T YOU THINK YOUR LITTLE LADY HAS SEEN ENOUGH BLOODSHED?

CHILDREN ARE BORN INTO SIN.

I HAD A DAUGHTER ONCE. SHE'S A CORRUPT COLLEGIATE STRUMPET NOW.

I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO PARSE YOUR DEMANDS IF YOUR TRUTH-SLAVES ARE GOING TO KEEP CHIMING IN WITH THIS CRAP.

TRUTH! QUIET DOWN THE RIFF-RAFF!

WHEN MARC TALKS, WE LISTEN! HE'S ALL I REALLY HAVE IN THIS WORLD!

WE WON'T SET FOOT IN YOUR PLACE IF YOU GET ON THE BOAT.

AND THIS MYSTERIOUS UNNAMED BOAT IS GOING...

TO OUR NEW HOME.

AS APPEALING AS IT IS TO HAVE A NAUTICAL PLAYDATE WITH YOU, RAOUL, I'M ABOUT TO BE VERY BUSY MAIMING AND BLUDGEONING THIS ENTIRE ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE.

MARLENE!

SHE'S THERE. WAITING FOR YOU.

AND SO MARC SPECTOR FOUND HIMSELF DRIFTING ROUGHLY UP THAT PROVERBIAL @#$% CREEK ONCE AGAIN.

I MEAN THAT LITERALLY. HE WAS STRAPPED TO A DEATH-BARGE SHIVERING IN THE THRALL OF A ROILING, MYSTERIOUS SEASCAPE.

HIS FATE UNKNOWN.

HIS TRUE LOVE IN THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES.

MR. BUSHMAN, THE KING SAID WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO MESS WITH HIM...

...THAT'S HOW WE ENDED UP--

SHUT YOUR MOUTH.

I KNOW WHAT HE SAID.

I JUST...

I THINK I'M ACTUALLY ADDICTED TO TRYING TO CUT HIM.

SCRUNCH

AAAH!

KRUNCH

SLICE

WHAM

SHUNK

WHUMP

YOU DID THIS, BUSHMAN, YOU SICK @#%$!

I KNOW! I'M SORRY!

WHAM

SLICE

BAM

CRACK

WHACK

WHUMP

YOU WANT TO PLAY PIRATES? YO $%#& HO, MATEYS.

RAOUL, YOU'VE SOMEHOW FOUND A WAY TO POKE THAT THORN IN MY SIDE A LITTLE DEEPER.

HA!

I HAVE, HAVEN'T I?

BUT IT WAS A MISTAKE THREATENING THE MOTHER OF MY CHILD.

YOU DON'T SCARE ME, SPECTOR!

I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO DO THIS TO YOU AGAIN.

SHUNK

AIIEEEEEE!!!

YOU CAN REPLACE THOSE, BUT THEY'LL NEVER BE YOURS AGAIN.

AND NEXT TIME, I WON'T BE SATISFIED WITH A *PIECE* OF YOU.

I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE SUPER HEROES WHO WON'T STRAIGHT-UP KILL YOU, BUSHMAN.

NOW, ONE OF YOU.

SHOW ME.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS STUPID BOAT?

OY, GOD.

WHAT IS THIS?!

HEY, MAN...THEY *SIGNED UP!*

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BUDDY?
B-BYRON.
THAT IS ONE OF THE MOST UNDERRATED NAMES *EVER.*
DON'T YOU SPEAK TO HIM!
YOUR MOM DOESN'T THINK YOU SHOULD TALK TO ME, BUT SHE SEEMS LIKE SHE'D BE ANGRY IN GENERAL.
...SHE IS.
WHY ARE ALL OF YOU STUFFED INTO THE BELLY OF THIS BOAT?
THE SUN GUY SAID HE HAD A PLACE WE COULD LIVE.
A NEW CITY WHERE WE COULD ALL CHANGE THE WORLD TOGETHER.
BYRON, STOP TALKING!
CAN IT, MOTHER OF THE YEAR.
A NEW CITY?
AN ISLAND.
AN ISLAND FOR US ONLY.
AN ISLAND?

UNLIKE RAOUL, I THINK I MAY HAVE LEARNED MY LESSON IN TRYING TO DEFEAT YOU PERSONALLY.

BESIDES, I WAS TASKED WITH YOUR DELIVERY TO THE SUN KING.

I JUST WANT TO HELP YOU SEE WHAT I SEE, SPECTOR.

I HAVE A VISION EVERY WAKING DAY.

LOVERS AND DREAMERS PILED WAIST-DEEP IN THE STREETS.

I WADE THROUGH PILES OF THEIR SLACK, TWISTED BODIES.

UTTERLY POWERLESS. NAUSEATED.

IT'S MY FEAR OF THIS MOMENT THAT MOTIVATES ME, NOT THE DESIRE TO SAVE LIVES.

THE FEAR THAT I'VE BUILT MY SANITY ON A LIE.

MY HOPE FOR A BETTER WORLD IS MY MOST TRAGIC FORM OF DISSOCIATION.

WASN'T THAT EASY?

NOW YOU'RE READY.

MARC.

WELCOME TO ISLA RA. YOU'VE BEEN MISSED.

ISLA RA?

THIS IS JUST A BUNCH OF SHACKS ON A BEACH.

IT IS *NOW.*

SOON THIS ISLAND WILL BURGEON WITH THOSE WILLING TO LIGHT UP THIS SHADOWY WORLD.

THEY'RE LIKE US, MARC! THE SICKLY. THE FRAGILE. THE *INSANE.*

SOCIETY'S REGRETTABLE BY-PRODUCT, BUT TO ME...TO US...THEY ARE *EVERYTHING.*

THE GREATEST UPHEAVALS IN THIS WORLD HAVE BEEN SPEARHEADED BY A DISENFRANCHISED POPULACE.

RA HAS FOUND A HIDDEN NATION HUNGRY FOR HIS GUIDANCE.

POINT THOSE GUNS ELSEWHERE, FRIENDS.

REALLY? WHY?

YOU AND I BOTH KNOW YOU WON'T HURT ME UNTIL YOU SEE MARLENE BREATHING.

THAT'S TRUE.

AND I COULD JUST BURN YOUR FLESH OFF.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO THERE.

TAKE A CATNAP, MARC.

WE FIGHT TO THE DEATH TOMORROW, BUT TONIGHT WE INDULGE IN A *RITUAL.*

A RITUAL YOU PROBABLY JUST *MADE UP.*

RA FEEDS MY MIND WHAT IT NEEDS TO KNOW.

YOU'RE GOING TO DRUG ME, AREN'T YOU?

SLEEP, MARC...

"...TONIGHT, WE BECOME *ENLIGHTENED.*"

WHY DID WE HAVE TO DO THIS HALF NAKED?

SHHHH. LET YOUR MIND UNRAVEL, SPECTOR.

I DON'T DO WELL WITH PSYCHEDELICS, SUN KING.

IT WAS ONLY TEA.

IT SMELLED LIKE WOODSTOCK.

WE SHARE WHAT THEY LABEL "INSANITY." THAT GIVES ME A GATEWAY INTO YOUR BEAUTIFUL, TORTURED MIND.

LET ME IN, MARC.

LET *US* IN.

THIS IS NOT REAL.

THIS IS NOT REAL.

THIS IS...

YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A BAD, BAD BOY.

IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A LOATHSOME FASCIST, I WOULDN'T BE LED TO SUCH EXTREME MEASURES...

FATHER.

LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING, KHONSHU.

YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO FIND I'M NOT AS TERRIBLE AS YOU THOUGHT.

HOW IS HE HERE IF THIS IS ALL JUST MADE UP BY MARC'S MIND?

MAYBE IT IS. MAYBE IT ISN'T.

EITHER WAY... I THINK WE'VE ENTERED THE WORLD OF METAPHOR, JAKE.

AND IT'S SCARING THE HELL OUT OF ME.

YOU THINK ME EVIL, AND WISH TO HAVE COMPLETE DOMINION?

WITNESS, SON.

SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THAT VISION.

GAH...

IMAGINE SAVING THE LIVES OF AN INSECT BREEDING GROUND ON A SINGLE SPECK OF ROCK...

THEREBY DISRUPTING THE HARMONY OF ALL NATURE, SURE TO TRIGGER ***CATACLYSMIC COLLAPSE*** THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE. ***BILLIONS*** WILL DIE.

IS THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS?

IMAGINE THE WORLD HAS ENDED, AND NOBODY IS LEFT TO JUDGE YOU OR CONDEMN YOU.

NO MEME VIRUSES TO INFECT YOUR OPINIONS.

EVEN IN THIS VACUUM, WOULD YOU SYSTEMATICALLY ***SAVE BORN KILLERS***, KNOWING THE DANGER THEY POSE TO SOCIETY?

WOULD THAT BE RIGHTEOUSNESS?

YOU WOULD DEPRIVE THE WORLD OF ALL THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

IS THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS?

YOU ARE ALREADY LOOKING AT A ***LITTLE GIRL*** AS THE NEXT GENERATION TO SEND OFF ON YOUR WAR WHILE CLAIMING TO BE THE ONES WHO LOOK OUT FOR HER WELL-BEING.

YOU SPARE HUMAN BEINGS PAIN, NEGLECT, AND TRAGEDY, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT SHAPE TRUE ***PROPHETS*** AND ***SAVIORS***.

TELL ME, SON, YOUR CAMPAIGN OF PEACE THROUGH DESTRUCTION, STRENGTH THROUGH WEAKNESS...

IS THAT RIGHTEOUS???

NO...

RA

IS

...

RIGHT???

TO BE CONTINUED...

MOON KNIGHT

If Ra is right, why does it all feel so wrong??? You'll have to tune in next month to find out, in the big finale of our "Crazy Runs in the Family" arc!

In the meantime, we've gotten some great letters from you fans out there, so let's jump right in!

Nice start. Keep us interested.

Russ Barbee

Russ, are you still around? Did we keep you interested??? LET US KNOW!!!

Dear Editor,

I love what Max Bemis and Jacen Burrows are doing on MOON KNIGHT. The tone of the issues is irreverent, disturbing and funny. This is everything I want from a modern comic and a perfect fit for the character. I'm looking forward to the next issue and I hope this creative team stays on the title for a very long time.

John

Thanks for writing in, John! Glad to hear Team Moon Knight is working for you, I hope you've been enjoying the last few issues!

Just wanted to say, really love what you guys are doing with the MOON KNIGHT series right now. Art is great, writing is stellar and the characters are excellent. You guys got me interested in comics again. Thanks, and long live Moon Knight!

Ian

Ian, I am THRILLED to hear that we brought you back into comics, that's so cool! I hope you've enjoyed jumping back into this wild and woolly arena and hope you've found some other awesome books to fill out your dance card as well! Might I humbly recommend THE PUNISHER? Or, on the complete opposite side of the spectrum, THE UNBEATABLE SQUIRREL GIRL? Lots of great stuff out there these days!

Hey, guys! I have never written in to a comic before despite being a huge fan, but I think this series warrants a letter. I have to say that this series is just amazing! Only reading the first two issues I am already ecstatic for the next issue. Thanks to Marvel Unlimited, I have read so many MOON KNIGHT comics. I just love all the weirdness and dilemmas the writers come up with. One thing I love about this series is the return of Marc's classic personalities, which for some reason have been ignored for a long time. Hope this series continues being great and can't wait for the next issue!

Collin

Thanks for making us your first letter, Collin, we are honored! If you dig the classic personalities have you checked out the Jeff Lemire and Greg Smallwood run? They did some pretty awesome stuff with Jake and Steven, if you haven't given that one a look it's well worth it! In fact, you can see some of the fallout from that story in this very issue!

Moon Knight is entertaining and amazing! I'd love to see this continue.

Big Fan.
Alex

Well, Alex, now WE are big fans of YOU! Your awesomeness is eclipsed only by your brevity. Thanks for writing in!

Holy fist of Khonshu--issue #189 was one great read! I especially appreciated the use of all of Marc's personalities throughout the story, and I had to cheer when our hero ultimately turned to Jake to deal with The Truth. Marc's ability to remain in control while calling upon his "friends" when the situation dictates truly builds upon the fantastic work done by Lemire and Smallwood before you. Thanks for putting together what already appears to be another memorable chapter in the mythos that is Moon Knight.

Mark Pearson
San Francisco

Aw man, thanks, Mark! Glad you're picking up on what Max has been carrying over from the Lemire/Smallwood run, all of that awesome work those two put in was just too good not to keep playing around with! Hope you enjoyed seeing the return of Frenchie!

I already wrote in after reading MOON KNIGHT #188, but after reading the preview for issue #190, I can't help but do it again:

There were several Moon

Knights throughout history??? That is so AWESOME! I can already imagine Hercules mentioning having been saved by that Greek/Roman Moon Knight. Or the Avengers traveling back in time and finding Moon Ranger (does this sound like a Power Ranger name?) alongside Two-Gun Kid... Now I am sad Avengers 1,000,000 BC didn't have Khonshu or a Moon Knight as a team member. Let's retcon that! (Kidding!)

Anyway, don't cease to amaze the readers.

Pedro Afonso
Portugal

I was SO EXCITED when Max threw out that idea, and then Jacen, Guillermo, and Mat just absolutely nailed it! I'm glad you dug it, too, Pedro! Hopefully we haven't seen the last of the Moon Knight legacy…

Okay, guys, I don't know what's scarier anymore, Bushman, Ra or the idea of Jake Lockley as a dad.

Marc is in deep. This run is really shaping up to be something special.

This is the first title I legit subscribed to since Jim lee penciled X-MEN. No "picking it up on release day," no "hold it in my sub box/list." I didn't even sub to the Ellis run. I need this sucker the second I can get it.

Best Christmas present ever! Happy holidays, guys! See you in 29.5!

Marcus V

My, my! Counting the days down to decimal points! I've said it before and I'll say it again, subscribing to a comic book at your local comics shop is the highest compliment you can pay any book, so THANK YOU, Marcus! That is so incredible to hear! Not since the amazing Jim Lee X-MEN, you say?! What incredible company to be in!!!

Well, Moon Knight is one of the oldest and weirdest super heroes Marvel has. The story they are currently telling is being well developed. I look forward to #191.

Now THAT'S a %$&@ Moon Knight story! Pardon my language.

Randy Whitehair

Randy, consider your language pardoned, although also grawlixed out for Standards and Practices reasons. I hope you enjoyed #191 and the subsequent issues! Thanks so much for writing in, it made our $%#@ day!!!

Yo, yo, playa.

Just finished reading MOON KNIGHT #190 and wow are my Christmas bells still ringing! The artwork by Burrows is straight money. He is a great guy to have at Marvel. Will he be on any other books soon?

Also, I love Bemis here, this is even better than his X-Men miniseries (which was hilarious). This issue was especially amusing with all the interior thought process. Hey, what's up with the "we got this" usage? I expect better from you, Bemis.

Keep killing it, dawgz!
Petey Popcorn Pissel

Glad we could keep those Christmas bells ringing, Petey! But…what's wrong with "We got this"? Do…do we NOT got this? Regardless, what we DO got is Jacen Burrows, and we don't want to let him go any time soon, his artwork is SO INCREDIBLE! Also, in case anyone isn't super cool and in the know like Petey, that X-Men book Max Bemis wrote was WORST X-MEN EVER, and it was, indeed, hilarious. If you missed it and you're digging this book, check it out!

Dear MOON KNIGHT team,

You guys have really outdone yourselves with this series. You had some big shoes to fill after Jeff Lemire's phenomenal run, but you somehow managed to top it. This series has it all, action, drama, great plot, a hint of comedy and stellar illustrations. The way this series is going I see a legitimate contender for the Eisner Best Continuing Series Award. Can't wait to see what's to come!

Mason Ricci
Walpole, MA

Holy smokes, thanks for those incredibly kind words, Mason! That's some high praise, indeed. And do you hear that, Eisners?!?! The people have spoken, and they love MOON KNIGHT!

Hey, people!

I love the story so far. It's an awesome take on Moon Knight! Loved the person-shifting thing, as well as Marc's cheesy joke. ;-) The art is incredible, it's so full of life! Can't wait to read more.

Best regards,
Nikolaj from Denmark

The art team on this book is, indeed, doing a pretty incredible job, no? Every page is an absolute wonder. And, as a purveyor of extremely cheesy jokes myself, I'm glad to hear others appreciating them as well. More to come, don't you worry! Marc's a dad now, it's part of the gig!

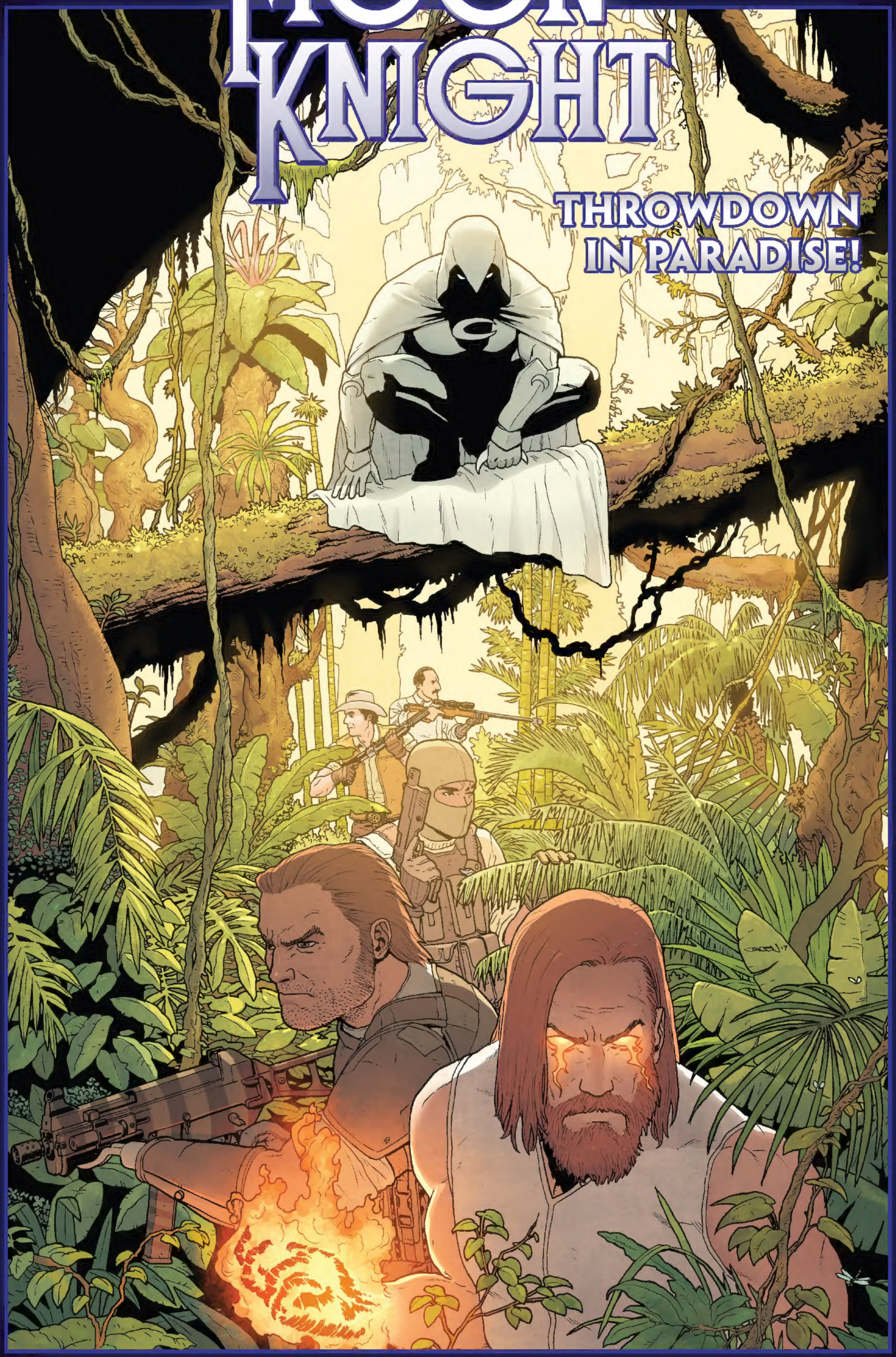
That's all we've got room for this week, but keep writing in and we'll keep cranking out more Moonie goodness for ya! Until then…

Stay Weird!
Jake T.

NEXT ISSUE:

MOON KNIGHT

THROWDOWN IN PARADISE!



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ZONE